There is an old man named Dudley who was living with his daughter, who doesn’t want him with her, but feels that it is her duty to take care of him. He moved from a home in the South to an apartment in New York with his daughter’s family. He is waiting for his neighbor to put out a geranium as he does every day while the old man reminisces. He talks about his time in the South where he lived with old ladies and two black people by the river. Dudley, throughout his reminiscing, shows that he is condescending towards black people, an attitude he carried over to New York.

A well dressed black man moves in next door to Dudley, to his dismay. Dudley takes out his frustration on his daughter by telling her that he didn’t raise her to live next to black people. She sends Dudley on a task downstairs. As he is returning, he is reminiscing about hunting in the South and falls down the stairs. The well dressed black man helps Dudley up and supports him back to the apartment, calling him an old timer. Dudley is humiliating by this and begins to cry in his apartment. The man with the geranium calls out to Dudley to ask him why he is crying and Dudley asks where the geranium is. The neighbor replies that it is not Dudley’s business, but it fell off the window sill. Dudley tells the man to pick it up, but he refuses and tells Dudley to get it if he cares. Dudley looks down the stairs and is too afraid that he will be helped by a black man again who will call him an old timer. He returns to the room and the man with the geranium says that he did not see him pick the geranium up. Dudley looks down to the dying geranium. The man with the geranium tells Dudley that he knows Dudley looks in his window every day, and he doesn’t like people looking into his business. He says that he only tells people this once.

Flannery O’Connor wrote both “A Good Man is Hard to Find” and “The Geranium” to be social commentaries. The characters in the story were written as **static characters** to help represent the values of the Deep South and the story is told through **limited omniscience point of view**. The **protagonists** in the stories, the grandmother and Dudley respectively, were brought up in the South in a different generation than the other characters in the stories where “values” included racist ideals and strict etiquette. The **protagonists** refuse to accept the new values of the current generation and believe that their own values and traditions are the correct ones to be passed on. Both stories involved Georgia, where Flannery O’Connor was born and raised. O’Connor probably wrote both stories in this place so that it would be more personal to her. The grandmother and Dudley lived with one of their grown children in their home, and act as a burden to their children as they try to raise their own family. While both the characters are a burden to their children, their children continue to take care of them because they consider it their “duty” to do so. The children of the **protagonists** do not respect their parent’s old South values, such as racism, and put them down for believing these values. The grandchildren of both the characters thought the **protagonists** ridiculous and dismissed them and their values as old-fashioned. Even though both of the **protagonists** are constantly dismissed, they both have extremely high pride for their upbringing and values, which contributed to leading up to the climax of the story. Both stories involved the **protagonists** going to or being in a place that they did not wish to go to or be in. Flannery O’Connor wrote both of these stories in a Southern Gothic style, which she was known for. O’Connor wrote the stories so that they both ultimately ended with death, though it was not as significant in “The Geranium” since only the plant died, though the plant was symbolism for Dudley who was uprooted from his home. O’Connor included **flashbacks** in both of these stories to help further develop the grandmother and Dudley by telling of their life when they most enjoyed their life.

The generation of the South that the characters were raised in believed that they were teaching how to be classy and proper, but really what they were teaching was how to separate people into classes, not how to have proper manners and etiquette.